

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A lighting system provided with a light-emitting panel (1) comprising

- a front wall (2), a rear wall (3) situated opposite thereto, and furthermore, between the front and the rear wall (2, 3), a translucent input edge surface (4) for coupling light into the light-emitting panel (1),
  - while at least a light source (6, 6', ...) is associated with the input edge surface (4), and
  - while, in operation, light originating from the light source (6, 6', ...) is incident on the input edge surface (4) and distributes itself in the light-emitting panel (1),
- characterized

in that the rear wall (3) in a first portion (12) of the light-emitting panel (1) is provided with a multiplicity of steps (13, 13', ...), and

in that a second portion (22) of the light-emitting panel (1) widens from the input edge surface (4) in a direction facing the first portion (12).

2. (original) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a surface (17) of the steps (13, 13', ...) facing the input edge surface (4) makes an average angle  $\beta_{av}$  with respect to a normal (25) on a bisecting plane (20) bisecting the light-emitting panel (1),

wherein the bisecting plane (20) comprises a bisecting line (21) in the input edge surface (4), said bisecting line (21) being parallel to the front wall (2) and bisecting the input edge surface (4), and

wherein the angle  $\beta_{av}$  is at least  $5^\circ$ .

3. (original) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the average angle  $\beta$  is in the range  $5 \leq \beta_{av} \leq 25^\circ$ .

4. (currently amended) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~ 2, characterized in that the surface (17) of the steps (13, 13', ...) facing the input edge surface (4) comprises a specular reflector (31) on a side facing away from the input edge surface (4).

5. (currently amended) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~ 2, characterized in that the steps (13, 13', ...) comprise a diffuser (32) on a side facing away from the light-emitting panel (1) while

an air gap (33) is maintained between the steps (13, 13', ...) and the diffuser (32).

6. (currently amended) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~ 2, characterized in that the height  $h_{st}$  of a step (13, 13', ...) is in the range  $0.1 \leq h_{st} \leq 0.5$  mm.

7. (currently amended) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~ 2, characterized in that the distance  $d_{st}$  between two steps (13, 13', ...) is in the range  $0.1 \leq d_{st} \leq 10$  mm.

8. (currently amended) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~ 2, characterized in that the number of steps (13, 13', ...) is in the range from 25 to 100.

9. (currently amended) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~ 2, characterized in that the length  $l_{fp}$  of the first portion (12) as compared to the length  $l_{fw}$  of the front wall (2) is in the range  $0.05 \leq l_{fp}/l_{fw} \leq 0.6$ .

10. (currently amended) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~ 2, characterized in that the ratio of the surface area  $S_{es}$  of the input edge surface (4) to the surface area  $S_{tr}$  in the light-emitting

panel (1) at the transition between the first portion (12) and the second portion (22) of the light-emitting panel (1) satisfies the relation  $1 < S_{tr}/S_{es} < 10$ .

11. (original) A lighting system as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the ratio is  $1.5 < S_{tr}/S_{es} < 4$ .

12. (currently amended) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1 or ~~2~~, characterized in that the front wall (2) is provided with a translucent diffuser (8).

13. (currently amended) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1 or ~~2~~, characterized in that the front wall (2) is provided with a light redirecting foil.

14. (currently amended) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1 or ~~2~~, characterized in that the light source (6, 6', ...) comprises at least one white LED or at least two light-emitting diodes with different light emission wavelengths.

15. (original) A lighting system as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that each of the light-emitting diodes has a luminous flux of at least 5 lm.

16. (currently amended) A display device provided with a lighting system as claimed in claim 1~~or~~2.

17. (original) A display device as claimed in claim 15, which display device comprises a liquid crystal display (50).